

REMARKS

Claims 15, 16, 18-24, 32, 36, and 38 are pending in the application. Claims 15, 32, and 36 are independent. Claims 1-14, 17, 30, 31, 34, and 35 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 15, 18, 22, 23, 32, and 36 have been amended, and Claim 38 has been added, herein.

In view of the amendments above and the remarks below, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment, and reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment Under 37 CFR § 1.116(b). Specifically, Applicants submit that entry is appropriate, as the Amendment cancels a number of rejected claims. In addition, the amendments presented herein to the pending claims are submitted to place them in condition for allowance, or at least place them in better form for consideration on appeal. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. For all these reasons, entry of this amendment is believed proper, and is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-24, 30-32, and 34-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,680,746 (Kawai). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention, as recited in amended independent Claim 15, is directed to a communication apparatus which is connected to at least one camera and at least one monitor, and manages information concerning a state of the at least one camera. The apparatus includes reception, processing, and transmission devices. The reception device receives the information concerning the state of the at least one camera. The processing device changes a map image representing a location at which the at least one camera is disposed, in accordance with the received information concerning the state of the

at least one camera. The transmission device transmits the map image processed by the processing device to the at least one monitor via a network.

The invention as recited in amended independent Claim 32 is directed to a communication method for a communication apparatus. The method recited in independent Claim 32 includes reception, processing, and transmission steps that perform functions parallel to those recited for the reception, processing, and transmission devices of independent Claim 15.

The invention as recited in amended independent Claim 36 is directed to a communication medium which stores a computer-readable program of a control method for a communication apparatus. The method performed by the program stored on the communication medium includes reception, processing, and transmission steps parallel to those recited for the method of Claim 32.

Thus, the features recited in Applicants' independent claims permit changing a map image representing a location at which at least one camera is disposed, in accordance with the received information concerning the state of at least one camera. The features of the invention also permit transmitting the processed map image to at least one monitor via a network.

Applicants submit that Kawai does not teach or suggest at least these features of Applicants' independent claims. Kawai discloses a camera control system for displaying a video image input from a plurality of cameras, using a map showing positions of the cameras to control each camera. As shown, for example, in Figures 1 and 46 of Kawai, a camera operation unit includes a bit map display 28 that receives a map image. That is, in Kawai, the same apparatus processes the map image representing the location at which a camera is disposed, and displays the processed bit map image. Thus, Applicants submit, Kawai does not disclose transmitting the processed map image to at least one


monitor via a network. Applicants further submit that the system in Kawai can transmit information concerning the state of a camera to another apparatus, but cannot transmit the information as a map image.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the independent claims are patentably distinguishable from Kawai. Applicants further submit that the dependent claims are patentably distinguishable from Kawai for at least the reasons discussed above for their respective base claims. In addition, Applicants submit that the dependent claims recite additional features further distinguishing them from Kawai, and respectfully request individual consideration of each dependent claim.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Entry of this Amendment, favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of this application, are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C., office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address below.

Respectfully submitted,



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